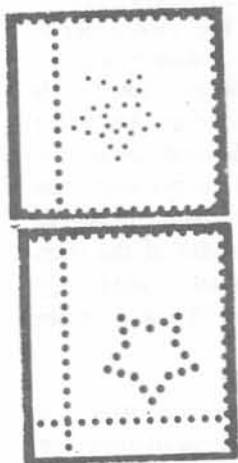


Two Variants of the Texas Star Perfin

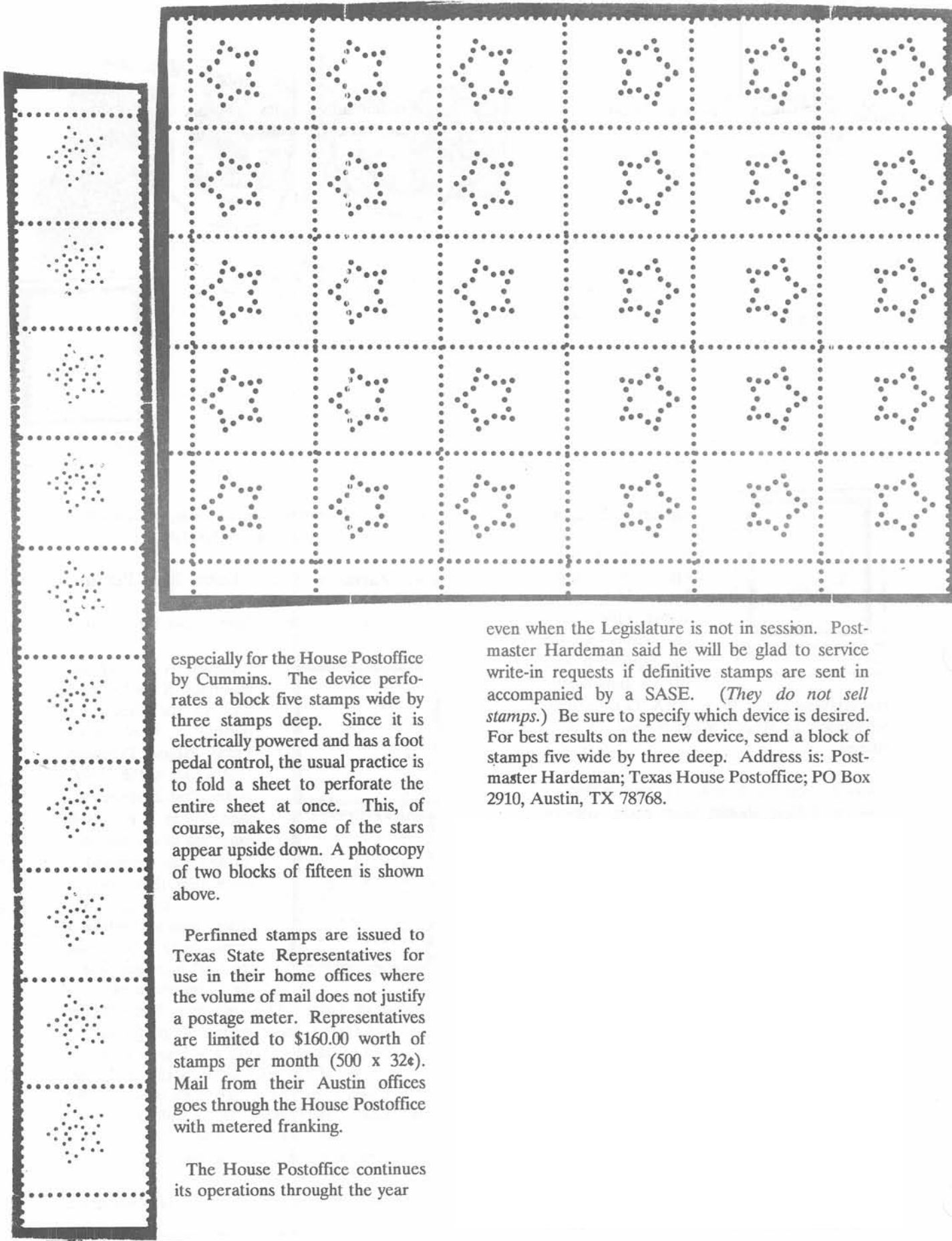
Katherine H. Foster, Editor, *Texas Precancels*



Shown to the left are examples of the two variants of the Texas star perfin. I went to the Texas House Postoffice (not a part of the United States Postal Service - a mail room) to obtain examples of the star perfin and was surprised to learn that there are, in fact two devices. The older Cummins perforator device (with a "C" inside the star) belonged first to the Comptroller of

the State of Texas. This pattern is listed in *The Catalog of United States Perfins* as perfin pattern C10 with a C rating. House Postmaster Clarence Hardeman could not tell me when the perforator was first issued to the Comptroller's office but the device bears serial number "59." A pull on the lever perforates a strip ten stamps wide. A photocopy of the full strip of ten is shown on page 112.

The newer device (about two years old) was made



especially for the House Postoffice by Cummins. The device perforates a block five stamps wide by three stamps deep. Since it is electrically powered and has a foot pedal control, the usual practice is to fold a sheet to perforate the entire sheet at once. This, of course, makes some of the stars appear upside down. A photocopy of two blocks of fifteen is shown above.

Perfined stamps are issued to Texas State Representatives for use in their home offices where the volume of mail does not justify a postage meter. Representatives are limited to \$160.00 worth of stamps per month (500 x 32¢). Mail from their Austin offices goes through the House Postoffice with metered franking.

The House Postoffice continues its operations through the year

even when the Legislature is not in session. Postmaster Hardeman said he will be glad to service write-in requests if definitive stamps are sent in accompanied by a SASE. (*They do not sell stamps.*) Be sure to specify which device is desired. For best results on the new device, send a block of stamps five wide by three deep. Address is: Postmaster Hardeman; Texas House Postoffice; PO Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768.